

OVAE CONNECTION

ED Releases Community-based Correctional Education Publication

OVAE's Office of Correctional Education, within the Division of Adult Education and Literacy, recently released the report *Community-based Correctional Education*, which presents information from 15 community-based education programs in 10 states—from charter schools to technical colleges and adult education programs. They provide services for individuals serving all or part of a criminal sentence under parole or probation. Community-based correctional education has attracted attention as a potentially cost-effective way to address two challenges: rising correctional costs and the needs of those in the inmate population who generally have lower literacy and workforce skills than those in the general population.

The report describes characteristics of community-based correctional education programs, their presence as viable and more cost-efficient alternatives to incarceration for improving public safety and decreasing recidivism rates, and the challenges and implications for state and federal policies in addressing these issues.

For more information you may access the full report at:
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/cbce-report-2011.pdf/>.

DOL Announces Green Jobs Innovation Fund Grant Competition

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the \$40 million [Green Jobs Innovation Fund competition](#) to support opportunities for workers to receive job training in green industry sectors and occupations. DOL will award five to eight grants to both national and statewide organizations with local affiliates that have existing career training programs.

The grants are tied to the Labor Department's twofold goal of increasing the number of individuals completing training programs with industry-recognized credentials and increasing the number of individuals completing training programs for employment in green jobs. The grants will help training providers develop programs that establish green career pathways between [registered apprenticeship](#) and pre-apprenticeship programs. In addition, the grants will provide the opportunity for individuals to receive technical and basic skills training through community-based partnerships. The closing date for proposals is March 29, 2011.

Interested parties may access grant information at:
http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

South Carolina Develops STEM Articulation Pathways

Under a grant from OVAE's Developing Rigorous Program of Study through Statewide Articulation Agreements initiative, South Carolina signed two statewide articulation agreements for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) pathways in engineering and mechatronics. These pathways will increase opportunities for secondary students to participate in concurrent enrollment, dual credit coursework, or otherwise acquire postsecondary education credits.

South Carolina's grant program established the two pathways to impact the education of engineers, technicians, and other STEM professionals in South Carolina. Partners in the grant include the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Career and Technology Education; South Carolina technical colleges; and South Carolina universities, especially including their colleges of engineering. The pathways are designed as a coordinated non-duplicative progression of courses across participating K-16 partners. A South Carolina Dual Credit Articulation Personal Pathway formalizes each pathway among secondary and postsecondary partners.

[South Carolina's STEM pathways model](#) and [STEM website](#) are available as resources.

Center White Paper Provides Framework for Return on Investment Analysis

The National Research Center for Career and Technical Education has released the white paper "[Conducting Return on Investment Analysis for Secondary and Postsecondary CTE: A Framework](#)." The paper was written by Kevin Hollenbeck and extends the work on Return on Investment (ROI) that he did on secondary and postsecondary Career and Technical Education (CTE). The report presents his approach to estimating net impact ROI and will be the basis of a more detailed handbook from the center for calculating ROI for state CTE programs. The framework for estimating impact is described through a 2006 study of Washington state, showing that, in general, "the participants in these programs reap substantial returns. The costs are virtually zero (even negative) for secondary CTE, and yet they get positive earnings, even in the short-term. For postsecondary CTE, there are tuition costs and foregone earnings, but the economic payoffs, even in the short-term, more than offset these costs."